

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 54

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Blumenfeld, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huffman, Jones, Krekorian, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner, Solorio, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, and Yamada)

March 23, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 54—Relative to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 54, as amended, Brownley. Education finance.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature that the State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring per pupil spending up to or beyond the national average, and to a level that accounts for the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil population.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, School districts cannot be expected to meet
- 2 performance standards unless they have sufficient funds to support
- 3 academic success for all pupils; and

1 WHEREAS, California's current education funding system does
2 not address cost differences across schools, school districts, or
3 pupils; and

4 WHEREAS, California's current system of education finance
5 appreciably underfunds schools and school districts, especially
6 those with the largest number of pupils with the highest needs;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts with relatively high
9 concentrations of disadvantaged pupils and those that operate in
10 a high cost environment do not receive sufficient funding to allow
11 pupils to reach the 21st century performance expectations that the
12 state places on them or to allow those schools and school districts
13 to meet the state's current goal on the Academic Performance
14 Index or the federal government's goals with respect to Adequate
15 Yearly Progress; and

16 WHEREAS, California schools and school districts receive
17 fewer revenues, and subsequently spend significantly less, than
18 do schools and school districts in most other states; and

19 WHEREAS, California has one of the highest pupil-to-staff
20 ratios in the country; and

21 WHEREAS, A comprehensive research study requested by the
22 Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tempore
23 of the Senate, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction found
24 that in 2007 an increase of at least 40 percent in education funding,
25 targeted mostly to low-income schools, would be needed to meet
26 the current expectations placed on California schools; and

27 WHEREAS, Proposition 13, which unfairly restricts corporate
28 property tax increases, has limited the ability to raise the additional
29 revenues necessary to provide the high quality education that
30 Californians expect and to support academic success for all of the
31 state's pupils; and

32 WHEREAS, The cost of providing an education in California,
33 like the overall cost of living, is among the highest in the country;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring*, That it is the intent of the Legislature that the
37 State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate
38 sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring per pupil spending up
39 to or beyond the national average and to a level that accounts for
40 the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil population

1 so that all pupils are prepared at the end of their elementary and
2 secondary education experiences for college, careers, and
3 successful participation in our democratic institutions, no matter
4 where they live or what their economic, racial, or ethnic
5 background is; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the Governor, to the Superintendent of Public
8 Instruction, to the Chairs of the Assembly Committees on Budget
9 and on Education, the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Budget
10 and Fiscal Review and on Education, to the Secretary for
11 Education, and to the President of the State Board of Education.

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